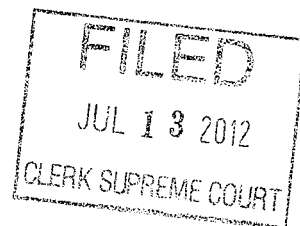


**In the Supreme Court of Iowa**

**In the Matter of Amendments  
to Iowa Court Rules Regulating  
Admission to the Bar**

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**Order**



Chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules governs admission of attorneys to the bar. The Office of Professional Regulation recommends amendments to Iowa Court Rules 31.11(3) and 31.12(2). The court adopts the recommended amendments effective immediately.

Rule 31.11(3) outlines the procedure for the court's review of an unsuccessful applicant's bar examination. The amendments make clear that the court will not review the board of law examiners' determination of an applicant's score absent extraordinary circumstances. The amendments also clarify that materials submitted to the court for review will be kept confidential.

Rule 31.12 sets forth requirements and fees for admission of attorneys from other jurisdictions. The amendments to Rule 31.12(2) include striking references to a particular website of the National Conference of Bar Examiners as well as a specific dollar amount of investigative fees the National Conference of Bar Examiners may require.

Effective immediately the court amends Rules 31.11(3) and 31.12(2) of the Iowa Court Rules and adopts the revised rules attached to this order.

Dated this 13th day of July, 2012.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By Mark S. Cady  
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice

**31.11(3) Supreme court review.** An unsuccessful applicant whose combined, scaled score on the bar examination is at least 260, but less than 266, may file a petition requesting review of the board's determination in the supreme court. However, the board's decision regarding an applicant's score is final and will not be reviewed by the court absent extraordinary circumstances. "Extraordinary circumstances" would include issues such as the board's refusal to correct a clear mathematical error, but would not include a claim that the board erred in the grade assigned to a particular answer. The petition shall be filed with the clerk of the supreme court and served upon the board. The petition must be filed within 20 days of the date the applicant's score is posted in the office of professional regulation and must be accompanied by a \$150 fee. If no such petition is filed within the 20-day period, the board's determination shall not be subject to review. The petition for review shall ~~identify all answers the applicant requests the supreme court to review and state in detail the extraordinary circumstances requiring supreme court review of reasons for challenging~~ the board's determination. Upon request of the court, ~~The~~ board shall transmit to the supreme court the complete record in the case. Unless the court orders otherwise, the petition shall be deemed submitted for the court's review on the record previously made. After consideration of the record, the court shall enter its order sustaining or denying the petition. The order of the court shall be conclusive. All documents submitted for the court's review, other than the applicant's petition, shall be confidential.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; September 20, 1976; April 25, 1985; March 31, 1986, effective May 1, 1986; April 17, 1990, effective June 1, 1990; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 117.1) July 19, 1999; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; June 20, 2007, effective July 1, 2007; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; February 20, 2012]

## CHAPTER 31

### ADMISSION TO THE BAR

#### **Rule 31.12 Admission of attorneys from other jurisdictions—requirements and fees.**

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**31.12(2)** The applicant shall file the application with the National Conference of Bar Examiners through their online character and fitness application process at ~~http://www.ncbex.org/ea~~ unless an exception is granted by the Office of Professional Regulation. The applicant shall pay a nonrefundable administrative fee of \$325 to the Office of Professional Regulation at the time of filing the application. The character investigation services of the National Conference of Bar Examiners shall be procured in all cases where application for admission on motion is made. The applicant shall pay ~~an~~ the investigative fee of ~~\$300 to~~ required by the National Conference of Bar Examiners at the time of filing the application.